

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: WMO

SUBJ: SIXTH SESSION WMO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I (AFRICA)

REF: GENEVA 4506, 4580, 4618, 4660

1. AFRICAN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION CLOSED ITS TWO-WEEK SIXTH SESSION AT 11 PM AUG 31, COMPLETING ACTION ON ALL ITEMS OF THE AGENDA. SOME 82 DELEGATES FROM 32 AFRICAN MEMBERS OF WMO TOOK PART UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF M. SECK (SENEGAL, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

2. EXCEPT FOR ACTION ON AGENDA ITEM 11 (REF GEHEVA 4618) ALL ACTION TAKEN WERE WITHIN BOUNDS OF US OBSERVER POSITION. WHILE MEETING WAS IN GENERAL CARRIED OUT WITH GOOD HUMOR AND MODERATION, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ASSOCIATION STILL SHARPLY DIVIDED BETWEEN ARAB APRT AND COUNTRIES SOUTH OF THE SAHARA. THIS DIVISION WAS MOST STRONGLY BROUGHT OUT BY CONTINOUS CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CHAIRMAN SECK AND TAHA (EGYPT AND PRES WMO). TAHA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT TO PERSUADE DELEGATIONS ON SEVERAL POINTS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS USUALLY CAREFUL TO IDENTIFY WHICH ROLE HE WAS PLAYING. EVEN ON THORNY ITEM 11, THERE WERE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WHO QUESTIONED WISDOM OF PREVENTING SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL FROM FULL PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATION

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PROGRAMS. WHEN MATTERS WERE FORCED TO VOTE, HOWEVER, THEY

NEARLY ALL DEMONSTRATED "AFRICAN UNITY". IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO SEE HIGH PERCENTAGE YOUNG DIRECTORS, ALL WELL TRAINED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THEIR SERVICES. ASECNA IS STILL STRONG BUT GROWING CONCERN THAT IT IS INHIBITING FULLER DEVELOPMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR NON-AVIATION USERS.

3. MUCH STRESS PUT ON NEED FOR GREATER EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY IN TRAINING AND SEMINARS. TAHA DRAFTED RESOLUTION WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY ADAPTED INVITING SYG WMO TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LIST OF SIX MAJOR ITEMS OF SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN METEOROLOGY WHEN DRAWING UP BUDGET FOR SEVENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD (REF 8/1).

4. OTHER RESOLUTIONS DEALT WITH SUCH QUESTIONS AS IMPROVEMENT IN BASIC NETWORK OF STATIONS, APPLICATION OF METEOROLOGY TO AGRICULTURE, MARINE AND AIR POLLUTION, OPERATIONAL HYDROLOGY, AND ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES SUFFERING FROM EXTENDED DROUGHTS, THE NEED FOR REGIONAL CENTERS FOR INTERCOMPARISON OF INSTRUMENTS, CLOSER COORDINATION OF TROPICAL STORM INFORMATION. IN GENERAL, TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WERE AT MORE RESPONSIBLE LEVEL THAN PREVIOUS SESSIONS.

5. IN BITTER AND UNSUCCESSFUL ARGUMENT WITH TAHA, SECK ATTEMPTED HAVE HIS CANDIDATURE FOR FURTHER TERM SUSTAINED. AFTER BRIEF PERIOD, HE WITHDREW FROM MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS CHAIRED BY TEWUNGWA (KENYA), VICE PRESIDENT. ABAYOMI (NIGERIA) AND RANAIVOSON (MADAGASCAR) ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENSUING FOUR YEARS.

6. DURING DISCUSSION OF DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION, AYADI (TUNISIA) REITERATED PROPOSAL THAT EX COM STUDY MEANS FOR HOLDING NEXT SESSION IN AFRICA.

7. TWO COPIES OF PROVISIONAL FINAL REPORT (UNCORRECTED) BEING POUCHED NOAA. ADDITIONAL COPIES AVAILABLE WITH CORRIGENDUM IN TWO WEEKS. MILLER

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